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Proceedings for

December 1983

Welcome

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Sobering, Fred D., "Welcome" (1983). *Great Plains Wildlife Damage Control Workshop Proceedings*. 293.
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Welcome-Fred D Sobering Director of Extension Urbanner Ball, Kansas State University Manhattan KS 66506

It's a real pleasure to welcome you to Kansas and to this Sixth Great Plains Wildlife Damage Control Workshop. The Wildlife Resources Committee of the Great Plains Agricultural Council has always been one of the more active and productive committees of this Council.

The program that the committee has developed for you addresses very succinctly the problems that you as university extension specialists, agency representatives and industry representatives face as you help your clientele deal with wildlife damage problems.

We in Kansas are always pleased to have people from other states with us.

It's very obvious to me that the speakers on this program, with their backgrounds, have a wide breadth of experience and depth of subject matter will certainly be able to address the relevant areas in Wildlife Damage Control a very effective and efficient manner.

One thing that particularly impresses me as I look at your program very obvious, joint effort of industry, U.S. and state government and university research and extension specialists involved in this program as speakers and participants. The day is long past where one or the other group can go their own independent way -- it takes real team effort to help solve problems of people involved in agriculture, natural resources and wildlife -- we need to cooperate to most effectively serve the citizens of our state and nation.

You are involved in a very important and, yes, at times, a highly controversial subject matter area. You often walk that fine line between the wishes of the agricultural producer and the environmentalist.

You have done a tremendous job of providing efficient, cost effective and legal means to control wildlife damage and in so doing, have provided landowners with the knowledge to use the available tools safely and effectively -- you have provided landowners with satisfactory choices that help them stay in business.

I suspect that all of you have seen copies of the USDA regulations on Fish and Wildlife Policy issued on August 22, 1983. It reinforces, again, the commitment by the Department to alleviate damage by wildlife in agriculture and forest production.

We're very proud of the program being conducted by Bob Henderson and Hill Andelt in cooperation with other agencies and organizations in Kansas.

Although statistics can be boring, during the period October 1982 to September 1983, county extension offices in Kansas received over 3,000 requests for educational assistance with wildlife damage problems.

During that year, more than 60 county meetings, 20 county demonstrations, 10 television programs, 94 new stories and 73 radio programs were devoted to providing additional information about wildlife damage control.

I know you want to get on with your subject matter and you need to do that. Let me close by saying that I know this conference will be stimulating and educationally rewarding to you -- that you will go home better equipped than when you came.

It is a real pleasure to have you in Kansas.